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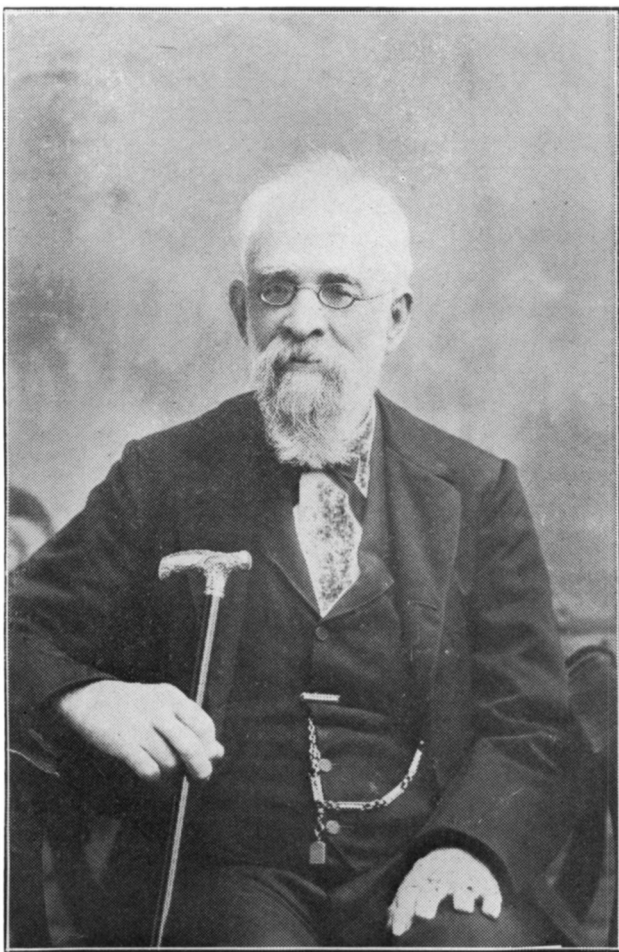
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Judge Edwin Beecher.

August 18, 1868, he was married to Miss Ellen King of Binghampton, N. Y., who survives him and who has the sincere sympathy of the entire community in which she and her deceased husband have lived ever since their marriage.

For two years past the burden of the years has been pressing hard upon him and visibly exhausting his physical powers. The firm, elastic step with which he so long walked the ways of life and business grew shorter and slower. His vitality gradually lessened, until at last without apparent struggle or conscious pain he fell into that sleep which knows no waking in this mortal life. His eyes were closed only to open again when greeted by the breaking light of a resurrection into life eternal.

The funeral services were conducted at the Woodworth home on East Main street, Robinson, Ill., Rev. Harvey W. White of the Presbyterian church officiating. The remains were laid to rest in the city cemetery.

EDWIN BEECHER, A PIONEER LAWYER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

Contributed by John L. Cooper, of Fairfield, Ill.

Judge Edwin Beecher was born in Herkimer county, New York, on the 11th day of September, 1819, and resided there until the year 1837, when he went to Ohio, where his father's family had preceded him.

In Ohio he attended Granville College, now Dennison University, for two years, after which he began the study of the law in the office of Henry Standberry, at Lancaster, Ohio. In 1843 he was admitted as an attorney at law, and in 1844 came to Illinois. The trip was made by boat from Cincinnati to St. Louis, and from there to Belleville, thence to Carlyle, thence to Salem and from there to Fairfield by various "stages," there being no other regular mode of conveyance at that time.

Judge Beecher arrived in Fairfield on the 24th day of April, 1844, and immediately entered into the practice of his profession, which continued until 1855, when he was elected as one of the judges of the Circuit Court in what was then the twelfth circuit. His commission as judge bore date June 25, 1855.

At the session of the General Assembly of 1861 provision was made for the re-publication of the first Illinois Supreme Court Report, before that time published by the late Hon. Sidney Breese, and in 1862 Judge Beecher published what is known as "Beecher's Breese."

In 1862 Judge Beecher was appointed a paymaster in the army, and continued in this work until 1869, when he resigned and engaged in business in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1877 he returned to Fairfield, where he resided during the remainder of his lifetime.

He was twice married, his first wife having been Miss Susan Wood, this wedding having occurred on December 12, 1844. His second wife was Mrs. Ophelia McCall. This wedding occurred December 22, 1887, and his widow survives him. He left no children, his only son having died on the 3d day of March, 1857.

Prior to his entry into the army Judge Beecher was interested in much of the important litigation in Southern Illinois, and was associated with many of the great characters of the early days of this State. He had a store of anecdotes about the bench and bar, and his greatest pleasure was to relate them. His sense of time and place was most remarkable, and he seldom told a story, or even a joke, about his friends of days ago, without giving the place where it occurred and the date thereof.

Judge Beecher will long be remembered by the bar of this part of Illinois, and especially by the younger members, to whom he was always ready and willing to give time and labor in order to assist them. He was regarded by those who knew him best as a walking encyclopedia of law, especially of case law; and often, when

called upon to give an opinion as to some proposition of law, he would cite the volume of the Supreme Court Reports and the very page where the point had been decided.

During the last few years he retired from his practice, his sight having failed, and lived a quiet and contented life, at peace with the world. While he often voiced his regret at not being able to see his friends, yet, he was never heard to complain, but continued, almost to the last, to have a pleasant word and story for those who called.

He died on the 16th day of April, 1910, and in his death much of the unwritten history of the early bench and bar of Southern Illinois became forever lost.

DEATH OF WIDOW OF GOVERNOR JOHN MARSHALL HAMILTON OF ILLINOIS.

Mrs. John Marshall Hamilton, widow of Former Governor John M. Hamilton, of Illinois, died on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1911, at the residence of her daughter, in Paris Hill, Maine.

The remains were brought to Chicago and the funeral services were held at 4:00 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 17, at the Oakwoods cemetery chapel, the Rev. John T. Hale officiating. Mrs. Hamilton was a resident of Kenwood until the death of her husband in 1905.

DEATH OF MRS. R. E. GOODELL, DAUGHTER OF GOVERNOR MATTESON.

Mrs. R. E. Goodell, daughter of Joel A. Matteson, one of the former Governors of Illinois, died Thursday, Nov. 9, 1911, at her home in Colorado. Mrs. Goodell formerly resided in Springfield, Illinois, and was one of the most prominent women in the State.

The Matteson home was located on the corner of Fourth and Jackson streets. Mrs. Goodell, during her residence here, was hostess to many illustrious people.